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Making Money On the Farm

On the Farm
 VIII.—Potato Culture
 By C. V. GREGORY,
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 Agriculture"
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Wheat is grown for human or for home use only, it is important that the potato crop be made to yield as much as possible. With the right kind of care yields of 200 to 500 bushels to

the acre can be obtained, making this one of the most profitable crops there can be grown, with the most certain yield at the most frequent harvests. It yields most generously.

The potato is very particular in its soil requirements. A rich sandy loam is best, but almost any soil can be so prepared as to make a fairly good potato patch. Two things are essential to the success and plenty of any potato crop: (1) the soil must be well cultivated; (2) the soil must be free from weeds. Both which contain too much acid or too much seed can be greatly improved for the production of potatoes by the use of lime.

The ideal way to prepare a field to produce it is to clear it for a year or a year and a half in advance, plow it, and then, when the corn is in, cut the corn stubs or the corn row to cut for stags or feeders, so that it can be plowed before winter. The plowing should be fairly deep, and the soil should be covered with two or three inches of straw or

ideal seed bed for potatoes.

Potatoes are not raised from seed, but from the swollen underground stems that we call tubers or potatoes.

Any piece of a tuber that contains a "eye" will grow and produce more of the same kind. A potato tuber has a piece of a tuber is really sort of a new plant, but part of the old one. If outside conditions are the same the plant will be the same and produce the same kind of a crop. There is much tendency to vary in plants propagated in this way than in those raised from seed.

Large Versus Small Potatoes.

Because of the fact that the potato is not a seed it has been claimed that the best way to get a crop of good quality as large ones. Growers often sort out and plant the tubers that are too small for market. The

selection almost always means a definite increase in yield. It is best to plant potatoes every third year, because they do not over-accumulate disease. It would be more a shame to develop them than to produce nearly as good results as they can from the same kind. If, however, you have a very small garden, you may have to grow potatoes every year, but from a kind of tubers all of which were securely stored they would produce mostly small potatoes like the ones I saw. For this reason it is not as important point is that there is enough food material in a small quantity to give the spent the kind of start that is needed to produce a good crop. The soil in which you plant potatoes are full of large potatoes when digging time comes. The start is very easy while it is fast making a way to the surface of the ground. The potatoes are small, but they will continue to grow through the rest of the season.



FIG. 67—WELL-SHAPED SEED POTATO

a dark place until planting time keep them from sprouting as much as possible. New sprouts will grow the old ones are broken off, but if the old ones are broken off, it will be a waste of time. The seedlings at all seedlings it should be treated by planting. This is done by using the tubers for two hours in a solution of one percent of formalin to free of water. Afterward the tubers should be spread out to dry and then use. The cutting should be done only just before planting, otherwise they will shrivel and rot. The use of such a solution, getting the seed potatoes out several weeks or even days before planting, not so be cautioned. Even if the tubers prepared is kept in a dark place, the starch part of the tuber is able to lose much of its freshness. The vitality of the seed may be

Planting.
Early potatoes should be planted soon as the ground can be worked. The later varieties, which comprise half of the crop, should be planted about corn planting time or a little later. In the corn belt it is most convenient to mark off the rows with corn planter. Where land is high it is desired to work it to its full capacity the rows may be as close

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ledge, "and this gentleman is Edward Whalley. As for the devil, we have left him across the sea, where maybe he still prevents God's servants from worshipping as their servants desire. As for you, sir, if you are so desirous to contend in arms let it be with the plowshare instead of the sword, that you may produce bread for us and our children."

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